

CHRISTMAS FUNDS DISBURSED**BANKS DISTRIBUTE \$58,000 AMONG PEOPLE OF CITY.**

Christmas Savings Funds Provide Money to Pay Off Debts and to Spend at Christmas—Steady Growth of Departments in Banks.

From The Daily Item, Dec. 15.

The checks from the Christmas Savings funds departments kept in the various banks of the city are being received today from some of the banks, while other banks have already mailed their funds out and others will do so in the near future. This year the total amount of this fund sent out by the banks will amount to \$58,000, which will no doubt go to swell the Christmas trade among the merchants of Sumter.

The checks coming in at this time are especially handy to those who keep these accounts. The funds, while not large, are very useful in helping one to save systematically and in bringing in money when it is most needed. This money goes out for insurance, taxes and mostly for the purchase of Christmas gifts and other articles which are sold and bought practically only at Christmas.

The origin of these savings funds was among the employees of Rittenburg & Sons 35 years ago, the account being kept in the City National Bank. The bank then took up the idea and under its management it expanded tremendously. This bank still carries on the fund as the Young Men's Savings Fund and it expects a larger number of shares to be subscribed next year with a greater number of shareholders than ever before. In fact already it has the promise of nearly double the number that will receive shares on next Monday from the bank from the 1916 fund. On Monday the bank will mail out checks amounting to practically \$12,000, which will be divided among one hundred and six shareholders.

The National Bank of Sumter first had an actual Christmas Savings Fund. This institution commenced its Christmas Savings Club, as the department is known four years ago and this year the bank will have a larger number of subscribers and more than double the amount of shares subscribed than ever before, showing that the system is steadily increasing in popularity. This year the bank will mail out \$19,460.13, the amount to be mailed tomorrow.

The amount will be divided among the employees of their year's savings in one lump sum. The subscribers may secure shares which call for weekly payments of any sum from one cent to two dollars.

The People's Bank yesterday mailed out to approximately one hundred and fifty-eight of their patrons checks covering the amount deposited in the People's Savings Fund department during the year with four per cent interest. This is about \$2,000 increase over the previous year. The bank force has not had time up to now to get out and push the department for next year, but hope to secure all of their former patrons of this department and many more in their 1917 Christmas savings department.

The National Bank of South Carolina was the first bank to disburse its Christmas savings fund, amounting to \$5,846.25, among about 215 subscribers. This bank has on the request of its patrons changed its time for opening and closing the fund. It will, beginning with the 1917 fund, open at the first of December and close on the last of November. However, this year the department is still open and will continue to the first of the year. In this way the patrons get their money in time for early Christmas shopping, paying taxes and other needs. The department is steadily growing and has a good future before it.

The Commercial and Savings Fund in the Commercial and Savings Bank has grown tremendously in the three years it has been in existence, it being the youngest bank with the youngest fund. This institution yesterday mailed out \$11,000 in checks to approximately 150 subscribers, an increase of twenty-five per cent over last year. The prospects are exceedingly bright for next year. The club opens on the first Saturday in January and runs for fifty weeks.

With the New Year the Sumter Trust Company opens up a Christmas Savings fund, for which more than a hundred share-holders have already been signed. This institution opens its Christmas fund on Monday, December 18th, to run for fifty weeks. Its shareholders may secure any kind of shares they desire, from one, two, five or ten cents a week, to an equal number of dollars. The formation of the Christmas fund department by this institution shows its popularity in Sumter and this popular concern will make a complete success of its venture into a new field.

Sofia, Dec. 15.—Enemy attacks east of Cerna, Macedonia, have been repulsed, according to the war office.

IMMIGRATION BILL PASSED.**LITERACY TEST INCLUDED IN MEASURE ADOPTED.**

Vote in Senate if Repeated After Veto, Sufficient to Override Action of President.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The immigration bill containing the restrictive literacy test for admission of aliens, which has caused three presidents to veto such a measure, was passed by the senate today, 64 to 7. The bill passed the house in the last session.

The senate reconsidered the clause designed to exclude anarchists who teach destruction of property as a propaganda. An amendment by Senator Hardwick for the committee, permitting entry of persons who advocate or teach destruction of property "in war, insurrection or revolution" but not otherwise, was adopted.

Three Republicans—Brandegge, Colt and DuPont—and four Democrats—Husting, Martine, Phelan and Reed—voted against the bill. Senators Smith of South Carolina, Hardwick and Lodge were appointed on the conference committee.

Authoritative statements have been made that President Wilson intends to veto the bill a second time because of a literacy test. In this event an effort will be made to pass the bill over the veto, two-thirds majority in each house being required. The bill passed the house last April by a vote of 308 to 87, more than a two-thirds majority, and the senate vote today, if repeated, would be sufficient to override an executive veto.

BAPTIST CONVENTION ENDS.

Number of Fine Speeches Made—President J. J. Stark of Morris College Makes Appeal on Behalf of That Institution and is Well Received.

Newberry, Dec. 14.—The Baptist State convention adjourned today at 1 o'clock after one of the most interesting and harmonious meetings of the body. The speeches of Drs. Gray of the Home Mission Board and Love of the Foreign Mission Board were grand. Many other speeches were fine. "Dean Crain," the noted mountain preacher, woke things up this morning in behalf of the mountain people. President Stark of the colored college at Sumter appeared before the convention yesterday and made a fine address and was heartily applauded by the body. The hospitality of Newberry is superb and the convention so stated in a resolution. Mayor Lyde of Charleston was re-elected president for next year.

The next meeting will be a week earlier than this one. It will be in Columbia on the pay plan, each delegate paying his own expenses.

GERMANY IN EARNEST.

Will Not Cease Efforts to End War Even Though Allies Reject Proposals.

Berlin, Dec. 15.—Even should the allies reject the German peace proposals without an interchange of ideas Germany will not cease her efforts to end the war, according to opinion expressed in high political circles today. The omission of stated terms in the German proposals is held in some quarters to have been intentional, the object being to give the allies the opportunity for an exchange of notes.

LOYD-GEORGE AT WORK.

Doctor's Orders Permit His Leaving House But Premier is Attending to Business.

London, Dec. 15.—Premier Lloyd-George is able to handle a large amount of work at his home daily, but he will not be allowed outdoors for a day or two.

GREECE ACCEPTS ULTIMATUM.

Demands of Allies Will be Complied With by King Constantine.

Paris, Dec. 15.—The ultimatum of the allies has been accepted by Greece, according to a telegram from Athens today. The contents of the ultimatum were not contained in the message, but according to cablegrams from London the chief demand was the disarmament of the Greek army and the transfer of the railways, postal and telegraphic services to the allies.

GERMANS CAPTURE BUZEU.

Main Gateway of Moldavia Seized by von Mackensen.

Berlin, Dec. 15.—Buzeu, a railway center, 60 miles northeast of Bucharest, has been captured by Gen. von Mackensen. Buzeu is considered one of the main gateways to the Roumanian province of Moldavia. The Bulgarians have crossed the Danube near Ploeshti, at the western end of the Cernavoda bridge. The capture of four thousand additional prisoners is announced.

FAVOR NEW TRADE MOVES.**SOUTHERN COMMERCIAL CONGRESS ENDORSES SHIPPING MEASURES.**

New Mercantile Marine Scheme Among Those Plans Which Find Backing in Resolutions.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 14.—The new shipping law, development of drainage and the intensification and diversification of farming were approved here today by the Southern Commercial congress at the close of its eighth annual convention. The congress also urged greater efficiency in the management of cities and the more thorough and general education of the masses, particularly in technical training in industrial and commercial activities.

The congress also adopted a report which approved appointment of a committee to present through popular subscription a great peace bell to the nation in celebration of the semi-centennial of peace in this country, the bell to be erected at Washington.

A proposal for a great scheme of international advertising by Herbert S. Hutson, editor of World's Work, also was endorsed. Final addresses before the congress today dealt with the extension of America's export trade after the war. Foreign diplomats, government officials and editors and business men predicted that the United States would hold its trade after the war, because its factories have been developed as never before, the world will need its goods and its business men have the will to develop new markets.

Dr. Wellington Koo, Chinese minister to the United States, thought this country should develop the market of China to offset any falling off in its commerce to Europe.

Andrew J. Peters, assistant secretary of the treasury, said the American manufacturer would be able to hold his trade after the war because the cost of production in Europe by reason of war taxes would be much higher than in the past.

Belisario Porras, minister to the United States from Panama, touched upon methods by which America can strengthen its relations with the Latin-American countries and suggested the creation of a great distributing agency in Panama for serving those countries. He said that carrying costs would be greatly reduced by shipping in bulk to Panama and re-shipping in smaller lots from there to fill the needs of South and Central America.

Daniel W. Sale, president of the Travelers' Protective Association of America, told the congress that the country must send out salesmen in order to obtain and hold foreign trade just as salesmen are used at home for developing business.

FIGHTING AT VERDUN.

French Strike Powerful Blow on Both Sides of Meuse.

Berlin, Dec. 15.—Pausing in the Somme drive, the French have launched a powerful blow along the Verdun front, on both sides of the Meuse, according to the war office. The German positions were bombarded heavily.

FIGHT FOR PROHIBITION.

Temperance Workers Flocking to Washington.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Encouraged by the action of the house judiciary committee yesterday temperance workers from all parts of the country are flocking into Washington to prepare for the most vigorous campaign ever waged for national prohibition.

WANT CITADEL MEN RELEASED.

Governor Requests War Department to Send Home Cadets at Border.

Columbia, Dec. 14.—Gov. Manning while in Washington this week will call on the secretary of war and urge that the seven Citadel cadets now serving in the Second regiment be relieved from duty so that they may immediately return to their studies. That such a step be taken was recommended at a meeting of the board of visitors held in Charleston Tuesday.

REBELS HARRASS CAIRANZA.

Villa's Army Approaching Torreon—Diaz Captures Esperanza.

El Paso, Dec. 15.—Revolutionists continue to harass the Carranzistas both north and south of Villa's main force which is now approaching Torreon. It is reported that rebels under Diaz captured Esperanza, south of Mexico City.

NEW PARTY SPEAKS OUT.

Hungarians Demand to Know Terms of Proposed Peace.

London, Dec. 15.—Dispatches from Amsterdam state that a new Hungarian independent party will demand a public announcement of the central powers' peace terms.

MORE OF COTTON USED.**NOVEMBER CONSUMPTION FIGURES SHOW INCREASE.**

Gain of About 700,000 Bales Shown—Mills Have More Staple on Hand and More Spindles Work.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Cotton manufactured during November amounted to 584,982 running bales compared with 514,743 a year ago, and for the four months 2,227,375 bales compared with 1,978,635 a year ago, the census bureau today announced.

Cotton on hand November 30 in consuming establishments was 2,191,799 bales, compared with 1,613,641 a year ago, and in public storage and at compresses 4,098,928 bales compared with 4,981,939 a year ago.

Cotton spindles active during November numbered 22,753,937 compared with 31,488,723 a year ago.

Imports were 13,139 equivalent 500 pound bales, compared with 21,168 a year ago, and for the four months 36,444 bales compared with 79,861 last year.

Exports were 759,550 bales compared with 524,392 a year ago and for the four months 2,518,295 compared with 1,863,316 last year.

Linters, not included in foregoing statistics, used during November were 64,991 bales, on hand November 30 in consuming establishments 79,846 and in public storage and at compresses 123,374. Linters included in exports 8,058 bales.

In cotton growing States, cotton used during November was 330,023 bales compared with 285,470 a year ago, and for the four months 1,275,964 bales compared with 1,080,835 last year. Cotton on hand November 30 in consuming establishments was 1,498,582 bales compared with 953,712 a year ago, and in public storage and at compresses 3,834,869 bales compared with 4,618,782 a year ago. Cotton spindles active numbered 12,535,192 compared with 12,739,308 a year ago.

GAMBRELL REPEATS CHARGES.

Assumes Responsibility for His Statements in Regard to General's Attitude on Revivals.

Dallas, Texas, Dec. 14.—Dr. J. B. Gambrell, corresponding secretary of the Baptist convention in Texas, today gave the press a copy of a statement which appeared in The Baptist Standard for December 14, in reply to an earlier statement by Maj. Gen. Frederick Funston. In his statement Dr. Gambrell said:

"The personal elements in the controversy can be eliminated. The whole controversy centers at a single point."

"Did Gen. Funston, through his chief of staff, Col. Barnum, inhibit the preaching to the men in his camps?"

"I take full responsibility for publishing that he did."

Dr. Gambrell then cites newspaper interviews and statements to prove his assertions and adds:

"These quotations prove beyond question that Gen. Funston did inhibit the preaching that men were lost and also prohibited revivals in the camps."

APPEAL FROM PEONAGE CONVICTION.

Lexington County Men Will Take Case to Higher Tribunal—Clarendon Man Sent to Atlanta.

Charleston, Dec. 14.—Four Hayes and J. G. Taylor of Lexington county provided bond today in the federal court, pending an appeal from sentences they received at the hands of Judge Smith, on conviction of peonage and conspiracy, and were released from jail. They will probably reach their homes tonight or tomorrow. J. B. Lloyd, convicted of using the mails with intent to defraud, has been taken to Atlanta by Deputy Marshall Mayes and Jailor Bennett.

POSSE CAPTURES I. W. W.'S.

Members of Organization Capture Train and Order Crew About.

Los Angeles, Dec. 15.—Posse of armed deputies today captured thirty-one I. W. W.'s on a Southern Pacific freight at Saugus, after they had commandeered the train and ordered the crew to bring them to Los Angeles.

TO GET PLACE ON FORCE.

Lieutenant in Militia to Secure Lieutenantcy in Charleston Police.

Charleston, Dec. 15.—An interesting bit of political gossip here is that Lieut. T. D. Millar of the Washington Light Infantry, now doing duty on the border, is slated for appointment as third lieutenant of police, Charleston department, succeeding Lieut. E. Mitchell Whaley, who will retire from the force on January 1, to assume shortly thereafter the office of magistrate, to which he was elected in the primary. Lieut. Whaley has been on the force nearly 28 years, serving as private, corporal, sergeant, and as a commissioned officer for six years.

PARTIAL VICTORY FOR SUFF'S**HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORTS ANTHONY AMENDMENT.**

The Judiciary Committee Makes Friends on Both Sides by Withholding Any Recommendation.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Woman suffrage advocates won a partial victory in their long fight to have the Susan B. Anthony amendment voted on in congress today when the house judiciary committee reported the measure for consideration without recommendation. A campaign now will be launched to get a special rule to bring the amendment before the house for action, probably some time in January.

Both suffragists and anti-suffragists expressed satisfaction over today's development and are confident of victory on the floor. The suffragists were pleased because the committee, which was generally regarded as hopelessly against their cause, went as far as it did. On the other hand, their opponents declare an opportunity to have the house vote on the issue inevitably means a defeat for suffrage, which will settle the question nationally for many years.

The vote in favor of reporting the resolution, 11 to 8, does not represent the sentiment of the committee on the issue. Some of its bitterest enemies voted favorably, most of them confident of seeing it beaten on the floor and desirous of quieting charges of "smothering" in committee.

One element of the committee headed by Representative Igoe of Missouri, sought vainly to prevent action.

"We are glad that the federal woman suffrage amendment has finally been reported to the house," said Miss Lucy Burns, vice chairman of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, tonight.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST PELLAGRA.

Public Health Service Reports Considerable Advance in War on This Disease.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The annual report of the public health service, just made public here, contains much valuable information relative to what has been done during the last year to stamp out pellagra wherever it has been found. Says the report:

"Activities ranging from the prevention and cure of blindness, scientific studies of pellagra, the protection of the health of industrial workers, the prevention of the introduction of typhus fever, investigations of child labor and health insurance, the eradication in communicable diseases and the control of the pollution of navigable streams, are recorded and demonstrate conclusively that the national government is vitally concerned in the health of its citizens."

"The most striking achievement of the year relates to pellagra, an affliction which in certain States destroys more lives than tuberculosis. Pellagra is no longer a disease of mystery, as the public health service has clearly shown that it is caused by a restricted diet and that it may be prevented and cured by means of a properly balanced ration. The practical application of this knowledge has already resulted in a material reduction in the prevalence of this affliction in all parts of the country and it is confidently believed that in another year even more marked improvement will be observed."

COLD COMES FROM WEST.

North Pacific Disturbance Causes Lower Temperatures With Snow in Some Quarters.

Washington, Dec. 14.—A North Pacific disturbance that moved south-eastward by way of New Mexico was central over southwestern Alabama tonight, the weather bureau said, and during the last 24 hours it has caused general snows and rains over Tennessee, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas and the Gulf States. Very low temperatures for the season continue generally east of the Rocky Mountains and snow or rain may be expected Friday over the Southern districts east of the Mississippi river.

It will be much colder Friday in the east Gulf States with freezing temperature to the coast at night and much colder Friday night and Saturday in the South Atlantic States with heavy frost Saturday morning as far south as central Florida.

Storm warnings are displayed on the Atlantic coast from Delaware breakwaters to Jacksonville and on the Gulf coast from Rockwell to Bay St. Louis.

Cold wave warnings have been ordered for east Texas, southern Louisiana, Alabama, southwest Georgia and northern Florida.

The New Year's Dance of the Holiday Eve Club will be given on the night of January 1st and arrangements are being made to make it a better dance than any held by the club in some time. Admission will be strictly by card.

MANNING MEETS GOVERNORS.**SOUTH CAROLINA EXECUTIVE ATTENDS SESSIONS.**

Palmetto Official Guest of Wilson at White House—Discusses Nitrate Plant With Baker.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Gov. R. I. Manning of South Carolina was on hand when the conference of governors was called to order at the New Willard hotel here this morning at which every possible phase of the high cost of living will be discussed and some way, if possible, will be found to alleviate the present situation.

Gov. Manning took part in the deliberations and was a close observer of what was said. Tomorrow Gov. Manning will hold an important conference with Newton D. Baker, secretary of war, and it is understood that he will discuss the probable establishment of the federal nitrate plant in South Carolina. It is quite likely that while here other cabinet members and high public officials will be seen by him in regard to matters of interest which are pending in the different departments.

South Carolina's chief executive is very popular in Washington and at his hotel met many friends before the conference began today.

Tonight he dined at the White House as the guest of President and Mrs. Wilson and Saturday he will be the guest of Josephus Daniels, secretary of the navy, aboard the dispatch boat Dolphin.

SOUTH SHIVERING WITH COLD.

Temperatures in Many Places Well Below Freezing and Colder Weather Forecast.

Atlanta, Dec. 15.—With temperatures in many localities well below freezing throughout the day and colder weather forecast, the Southeastern States, with the exception of Florida, tonight shivered in the severest weather of the winter. In Atlanta tonight the government reading was 29 degrees, a moderation over the 25 degrees registered at noon today, but the local forecaster promised a drop to from 10 to 15 degrees above zero before morning and a sweep of freezing temperatures as far south as Northwest Florida. The freeze, however, is not expected to extend to the coast sections of Florida. Cold weather, with frost in the north and central portions is forecast for Florida Saturday night.

Freezing weather prevailed in western and central South Carolina tonight and temperatures from 15 to 18 degrees above are forecast for tomorrow morning, with the frost belt extending through to the coast. Charleston, which reported 56 at noon today, had a temperature of 40 degrees at 7 p. m., and still falling.

A sleet and rain storm here last night left the trees and roofs of the city ice-coated throughout the day.

FAMILIES RECEIVE \$75,000 DAILY

Quartermaster General Says Fund of 2,000,000 is Practically Exhausted.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The war department is paying out \$75,000 a day to the dependent families of enlisted men of the regular army and National Guard, Major Gen. Sharpe, quartermaster general, told the house military committee today. The \$2,000,000 fund for this purpose "already provided is virtually exhausted, he added, and emergency legislation will be asked to continue the payments through the present month. If disbursements continue at the present rate a deficiency of nearly \$5,000,000 will be shown by the end of the fiscal year.

The committee was told that more than 50,000 men were expected to take voluntarily military training at the civilian training camps next year. Nearly 30,000 attended last summer. "I am utterly opposed to these camps," declared Representative McKellar. "They are just delightful vacations."

"You would change your tune if you went to one and took that training," replied Representative Kahn. "Representative Green brought out the statement that it cost \$61.96 per man to operate the camps and said it could be shown that countries where universal training was given paid no such price. Gen. Sharpe agreed with him."

COMMERCIAL CLUB BURNED.

New Building Burned at Nashville—\$75,000 Loss.

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 15.—The recently constructed Commercial Club building was destroyed by fire this morning with a loss of \$75,000 in property.

POPE WILL SPEAK.

Will Issue Peace Proclamation on Christmas.

Copenhagen, Dec. 15.—In reply to peace overtures of the central powers, Pope Benedict is expected to issue general Xmas proclamation soon, according to advices received today.